

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-15, 17 and 22 were rejected and claims 16, 18-21, 23 and 24 were objected to by the Examiner. More specifically:

- Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0131362 (Callon);
- Claims 2-8, 10-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Callon in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,130,262 (Cortez);
- Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Callon in view of Cortez and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0017845 (Bauer); and
- Claims 16, 18-21, 23 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-24 will remain pending. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants request that the above-listed rejections and objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8

Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Callon because Callon fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. *See* MPEP §2131 (stating that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in the single prior art reference). More particularly, Applicants submit that Callon fails to disclose at least “maintaining a set of current candidate exit points out of a first area in the domain, wherein the candidate exit points are associated with the destination address,” as required by claim 1.

Callon teaches a method for sending link failure messages through a network to converge routing information after a network fault. *See* Callon at Abstract. Upon detecting a network fault, a router generates link failure information to identify a failed link and communicates the link failure information to neighboring routers. *See id.* at Abstract: [0031]; [0035]. Routers receiving the link failure information reject routes that include the failed link from their routing tables. *See id.* at [0048].

Claim 1 requires maintaining a set of current candidate exit points out of a first area in a domain. In contrast, Callon requires that a router maintain a set of routes describing complete

paths starting at the router. Callon does not teach or disclose maintaining a set of current candidate exit points. For at least this reason, Callon does not teach or disclose “maintaining a set of current candidate exit points out of a first area in the domain, wherein the candidate exit points are associated with the destination address,” as required by claim 1.

As such, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the Examiner-cited prior art. *See* MPEP §2131. Because claims 2-8 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1, claims 2-8 are likewise allowable over the Examiner-cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants request that the §102(c) rejections associated with claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

Claims 9-24

Applicants submit that independent claim 9 is not anticipated by Callon because Callon fails to disclose each and every element of claim 9. *See* MPEP §2131 (stating that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in the single prior art reference). More particularly, Applicants submit that Callon fails to disclose, among other things, the following limitations recited in claim 9:

- “maintaining a set of current candidate exit points for the path out of a first area;” and
- “determining whether the first network event is a shortest path event or an exit point event.”

Callon teaches a method for sending link failure messages through a network to converge routing information after a network fault. *See* Callon at Abstract. Upon detecting a network fault, a router generates link failure information to identify a failed link and communicates the link failure information to neighboring routers. *See id.* at Abstract; [0031]; [0035]. Routers receiving the link failure information reject routes that include the failed link from their routing tables. *See id.* at [0048].

As stated above in reference to claim 1, Callon does not maintain a set of current candidate exit points. Callon merely maintains complete route information. In contrast, claim 9 requires maintaining a set of current candidate exit points out of a first area.

In addition, Callon does not teach determining whether the first network event is a shortest path event or an exit point event. Callon merely discusses link failures and selecting a new route that does not contain a failed link. *See id.* Thus, Callon cannot make a determination

as to whether an event is a shortest path event, because such events are not considered by Callon. Accordingly, Callon does not teach “determining whether the first network event is a shortest path event or an exit point event,” as required by claim 9.

As such, Applicants submit that claim 9 is allowable over the Examiner-cited prior art for at least the aforementioned reasons. *See* MPEP §2131. Because claims 10-24 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 9, claims 10-24 are likewise allowable over the Examiner-cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections and objections associated with claims 9-24 be withdrawn.

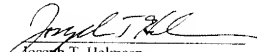
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and accommodated. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. There being no other rejections, Applicants respectfully request that the current application be allowed and passed to issue.

If the Examiner believes for any reason that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, I invite the Examiner to telephone me directly.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Response, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account no. 50-0436.

Respectfully submitted,
PEPPER HAMILTON LLP


Joseph T. Helmsen
Reg. No. 54,163

Pepper Hamilton LLP
One Mellon Center, 50th Floor
500 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: 412.454.5000
Facsimile: 412.281.0717
Date: March 28, 2008